

NEWS RELEASE



California Department of Social Services

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CDSS SUPPORTS THE MOST APPROPRIATE PLACEMENT AND CARE FOR AMERICAN INDIAN CHILDREN

SACRAMENTO - The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is reinforcing its commitment to collaborate with California tribes to ensure the most appropriate placement and care for American Indian children in California. This announcement supports our tribal partners, in light of the recent [decision](#) by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas in the case of *Brackeen et al. v. Zinke*. The judge sided with the states of Texas, Louisiana and Indiana that the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) infringed on state rights to oversee child welfare proceedings. This ruling does not impact California.

“The Indian Child Welfare Act has long promoted the stability of families and protected the best interests of sovereign-nation tribal children,” says Will Lightbourne, Director of the California Department of Social Services. “We will continue to monitor this case, and we stand with tribes to defend this important law.”

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